

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONO

COGARD

GOV GUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:JANUARY 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

FOR FIRST TIME SINCE PRC WENT INTO MOURNING SATURDAY,
FOREIGNERS ALLOWED JOIN TRIBUTE, PAY HOMAGE CHOU EN-LAI
MONDAY. ENVOYS, STUDENTS, JOURNALISTS -- AND HANDFUL
OF WESTERNERS WHO HAVE MADE PERMANENT HOMES IN PEKING --
LINED UP IN FREEZING FORBIDDEN CITY COURTYARDS TO STAND
FEW SECONDS BEFORE COFFIN (REUTER, NYT). USLO'S THAYER,
SOVIET AMB TOLSTIKOV AMONG FOREIGN RESIDENTS AT CEREMONY.
THOUSANDS OF CHINESE, HUNDREDS FOREIGN RESIDENTS, BOWED
BEFORE URN CONTAINING PREMIER'S ASHES IN SOLEMN MEMORIAL
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rites AT WORKERS' CULTURAL PALACE (WP).

KYODO SAYS FOREIGN DIPLOMATS SPECULATE CHOU NOT TOLD HE HAD CANCER; CONSIDERED MOST SERIOUS ADULT DISEASE IN PRC, AND IRON-CLAD DOCTORS' CODE PREVENTS TELLING PATIENTS THEY HAVE IT (CHITRIB).

AP (GLOBE JAN 11) NOTES CODEL OF 11 WOMEN RETURNED FROM PRC SATURDAY FEELING CHOU'S DEATH PROBABLY WILL NOT AFFECT GROWING SINO-US FRIENDSHIP. REP HECKLER FOUND TENG HSIAO-PING "VERY DIRECT, CORDIAL AND EFFICIENT MAN WHO IS NOT

ONE TO WASTE TIME ON TRIVIALITY;; TENG EXPRESSES VIEWS "VERY CLEARLY" AND IS "PRAGMATIC MAN WHO WILL CARRY OUT (CHOU'S) POLICIES. HE HAS A TAKE-CHARGE PERSONALITY.' HECKLER ADDED THAT CHINESE GENUINELY WANT STRENGTHEN "GROWING BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

2. THAILAND

ON KUKRIT'S ADVICE, KING DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT. PM SAYS CAN'T GOVERN BECAUSE LEGISLATURE FRAGMENTED (WSJ). DECISION AMOUNTS TO KUKRIT RESIGNATION; COMES 2 DAYS BEFORE ASSEMBLY DEBATE OF NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION. ELECTIONS DUE APR 4 (CHITRIB; REUTER, SUN). WP'S SIMONS AT BANGKOK SEES KUKRIT'S DECISION AS ESSENTIALLY OUTGROWTH OF COMMUNIST INDOCHINA VICTORIES, AS THAIS TRY ADJUST TO "NEW REALITY." NOTES ONE APPROACH IS TENTATIVE FORMATION LEFT-LEANING COALITION BY PM'S BROTHER SENI, WHO COMPLAINS ABOUT CORRUPTION. ATTRIBUTES KUKRIT'S MOVE TO PRESSURE FROM RTG TOP MIL LEADERS WHO WANTED HEAD-OFF POSSIBLE NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE. QUOTES POL OBSERVERS THAT KUKRIT HAS BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE WIN ELECTIONS, IF ONLY BECAUSE HIS PARTY BETTER FUNDED THAN OTHERS.

ANDELMAN (NYT) AT BANGKOK REPORTS KUKRIT WILL STAY ON AS CARETAKER UNTIL ELECTIONS. BELIEVES CONSERVATIVE THAI MILITARY APPROVED ASSEMBLY DISOLUTION MAINLY AS WAY PREVENT LEFTIST COALITION TAKING POWER IN WAKE PROBABLE NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE. SAYS KUKRIT HOPES ELECTIONS WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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GIVE MAJORITY TO SINGLE PARTY, ENABLING GOVERN ALONE OR FORM STABLE COALITION. STATES NOT CLEAR HOW VARIOUS GROUPS BOTH WITHIN, OUTSIDE COUNTRY WILL TREAT NEW POL CRISIS, CARETAKER GOVT.

3. INDOCHINA

IN ROUNDUP OF VN ACTIVITY, NYT'S BUTTERFIELD AT HK NOTES

REPORTS PX GOODS, FORMER US CARS SHOW UP IN HANOI, WHILE WELL-EQUIPPED SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, TEXTILE MILL, MUCH SVN RICE PACKED FOR SHIPMENT NVN. ADDS TENS OF THOUSANDS FROM NVN SENT TO SVN AS POLICE, OFFICIALS; REASON MAY BE SVN COMMUNISTS NOT SO NUMEROUS AFTER ALL, OR NVIETS SIMPLY DON'T TRUST SVIETS. POINTS OUT PHAM HUNG LISTED AHEAD OF PRG, NLF OFFICIALS AT REUNIFICATION SESSIONS. BELIEVES NLF WILL BE SUBSUMED INTO LARGELY-POWERLESS VN FATHERLAND FRONT WHEN REUNIFICATION OCCURS. CALLS STEADY DECLINE IN LIVING STD "OVERWHELMING FACT OF LIFE" IN SAIGON. CONSIDERS ECON DIFFICULTIES MAY CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUED ARMED RESISTANCE CONCENTRATED IN HIGHLANDS, DELTA; ANALYSTS THINK RESISTANCE WILL ONLY BE ANNOYANCE, DUE LACK MIL SUPPLIES. REVIEWS CONTINUED, INTENSE ANTI-THAI PROPAGANDA BY NVN, WHILE HANOI MAINTAINS 30,000 TROOPS IN LAOS NEAR THAI BORDER, REPORTEDLY STEPS UP ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THAI COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. SAYS UNCLEAR WHETHER NVN WANTS KEEP THAIS NERVOUS OR IS LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER ACTIVITY.

4. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN METHOD SELECTING NATL ASSY THAT WOULD APPARENTLY GIVE HIM FINAL SAY ON COMPOSITION. IN STUDENT PAPER, EX-PRES MAGAPAGAL APPEALS FOR RESTORATION DEMOCRACY (NYT SPECIAL).

5. INDONESIA

OFFICIAL BANK FIGURES GIVEN WORLD BANK SHOW EXTENT PERTAMINA DEBTS; GOI PAID 1.228 BILLION DOLS ON LOANS, EXPECTS PAY 600 MILLION MORE BY END MARCH. SUHARTO UNCLASSIFIED

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GIVES NOTICE WILL TRY SQUEEZE MORE FROM FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN RENEGOTIATION PETROLEUM CONTRACTS (JOC).

6. MALAYSIA

CSM'S MOONEY DOES TRAVEL ARTICLE ON SABAH, SARAWAK; FINDS BOTH INTERESTING FOR ADVENTUROUS TRAVELER; NOTES BOTH TAKING ON FIRST TRAPPINGS CIVILIZATION.

7. AUSTRALIA

PM FRASER STRONGLY ENDORSES US MIL PRESENCE INDIAN OCEAN, ADDS SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH PLANS EXPAND DIEGO GARCIA BASE (WSJ; WP; UPI, JOC) TO BALANCE SOVIET POWER, HELP GUARANTEE SEA LANES, OIL SUPPLIES FOR JAPAN

(BRADDICK, NYDN).

PM SAYS GOA WANTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT, WILLING ACCEPT
FOREIGN MAJORITY OWNERSHIP WHEN LOCAL CAPITAL LACKING
(UPI, JOC).

FREAK HAILSTORM HITS CANBERRA, DOES 4.2 MILLION ESTIMAT-
ED DAMAGE (WP).

8. JAPAN

GOJ OFFICIALS ENDED TALKS WITH GROMYKO MONDAY, WITHOUT
AGREEMENT ON PEACE TREATY OR NORTHERN ISLANDS (SUN,

WSJ). BOTH SIDES AGREED CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS (CHITRIB).
DOUBTFUL JOINT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED TUESDAY, WHEN
GROMYKO DEPARTS TOKYO (WP). SUN CARRIES AP PHOTO MIKI,
GROMYKO; NOTES BOTH STOOD FIRM ON POSITIONS.

SOURCES CLOSE TO MFA SAY GROMYKO PROPOSED JAPAN, SOV
SIGN FRIENDSHIP TREATY, PUT OFF PEACE TREATY AND
ISLANDS ISSUE; BUT MIYAZAWA REJECTED OFFER. ALSO SAID
MIKI RENEWED INVITATION TO SOV LEADERS VISIT JAPAN,
RECEIVED PERSONAL NOTE FROM BREZHNEV, BUT CONTENTS NOT
DISCLOSED (AP, TOKYO).

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GROMYKO TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN TOKYO TUESDAY CHINESE
TRYING PRESSURE JAPAN INTO ADOPTING PEKING'S HOSTILE
STANCE TOWARD SOV, BUT WARNED JAPAN SHOULD NOT FORM
CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRC AT SOV EXPENSE. SAID
SOV HAS "GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS" WITH JAPAN, TALKS
WITH MIKI, MIYAZAWA WERE "USEFUL." NOTED DISCUSSIONS
OF FISHERIES PROBLEMS TOOK PLACE IN "BUSINESSLIKE
ATMOSPHERE." SAID TWO GOVTS HAVE "DIFFERENT VIEWS" ON
NORTHERN ISLANDS ISSUE, WHICH DISCUSSED; BUT DECLINED
GIVE DETAILS (REUTER TOKYO).

SPEAKING AT FOREIGN PRESS CLUB TUESDAY, MIKI BRUSHED
ASIDE SOV WARNINGS AGAINST FORMING CLOSER TIES WITH PRC,
SAID JAPAN WILL TRY CONCLUDE PROPOSED PEACE TREATY WITH
PRC. SAID COULD BE NO PEACE TREATY WITH SOV UNTIL
NORTHERN ISLANDS RETURNED. NOTED JAPAN "ENTHUSIASTIC"
ABOUT HAVING FRIENDLIER RELATIONS WITH SOV; SAW NO
CONTRADICTION IN INCLUSION ANTI-HEREMONY CLAUSE IN TREATY
WITH PRC AND PURSUING BETTER RELATIONS WITH SOV. ADDED
DEEP PERSONAL SORROW CHOU EN-LAI DID NOT LIVE TO SEE
SIGNING JAPAN-PRC PEACE PACT (REUTER TOKYO).

C. ITOH, ATAKA MONDAY ANNOUNCED TALK TO FORM PARTNERSHIP, AIMING AT MERGER (JOC, TOKYO). APPEAR BE MOTIVATED BY ATAKA FINANCIAL TROUBLES (NYT, TOKYO).

BP REFINERY, NEWFOUNDLAND OIL, OWES SUBSIDIARY, ATAKA AMERICA, 75 MILLION DOLS; HAS "DELAYED" PAYMENT FOR UNDISCLOSED REASON.

9. KOREA

USDA SAID MONDAY CCC DECIDED GRANT CREDIT TO HELP ROK BUY 95 MILLION DOLS WORTH US COTTON. REPAYMENT IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS OVER THREE YEARS, AT COMMERCIAL RATES (AP, CHITRIB).

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10. MACAO

COPLEY NEWS' NEILAN AT MACAO (12/18) DESCRIBES COLONY, UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTES STATUS QUO SUITS PEKING. OBSERVES HK FIRMS WATCH MACAO CLOSELY FOR SIGNS CHANGE IN PRC POLICY THAT MAY HAVE REPERCUSSIONS THERE.

LAT'S ELEGANT AT MACAO (1/10) NOTES HK WEEKEND CROWDS DRAWN BY CASINO GAMBLING. DESCRIBES SOME OF ACTION, LOW-PRESSURE ATMOSPHERE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. CHINA

REUTER'S ROGERS, IN PEKING, OBSERVES MOURNING FOR CHOU EN-LAI PRODUCED "EXTRAORDINARY" SCENES OF MASS GRIEF TUESDAY, WITH THOUSANDS OF DISTRAUGHT CHILDREN PARADING THROUGH VAST TIEN AN MIEN SQUARE. SAYS EMOTION IN CAPITAL STILL HIGH FIVE DAYS AFTER PREMIER'S DEATH, "FANNED" BY OFFICIAL EXHORTATIONS TO "TRANSFORM GRIEF INTO STRENGTH."

GLOBE (JAN 11) CONCLUDES CHINESE POLITICIANS YEARS AGO PROPERLY APPLIED TO CHOU NAME "PU-TAO-WANG"--WEIGHTED CHINESE DOLL THAT ALWAYS SWINGS BACK TO UPRIGHT POSITION, NO MATTER WHICH WAY HIT. FROM STREET AGITATOR TO INTERNATIONAL STATEMAN, PREMIER WAS MASTER OF POLITICAL SURVIVAL; NOT ONLY PRAGMATIST, BUT ABLE HELP CREATE CONDITIONS -- AND WHEN PERSUASIVENESS FAILED, HE COULD FALL BACK ON OUTWITTING, OUTMANEUVERING, OUTWAITING OPPONENTS.

SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, SEES MOURNING CERMONIES FOR CHOU CONTAINING GLIMPSE OF FUTURE -- FORETASTE OF WHAT WILL COME WHEN MAO TSE-TUNG LEAVES SCENE. CHOU IN LAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN GIVEN HONORS ACCORDED NO OTHER CHINESE LEADER IN RECENT YEARS; AND AUTHORITIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY MAKE HIS FUNERAL THURSDAY MOST IMPRESSIVE YET HELD IN PEKING. SPECULATES ONE POSSIBLE SIGN OF EXTRAORDINARY HONOR WOULD BE MAO'S APPEARANCE TO PAY CHOU TRIBUTE. CONCLUDES THAT JUST AS CHOICE OF CHOU SUCCESSOR WILL BE TEST OF PRC'S ABILITY MAINTAIN STABLE ATMOSPHERE WHILE HANDING POWER TO NEW GENERATION, HIS FUNERAL WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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REHEARSAL FOR MORE SIGNIFICANT OBSERVANCES LYING AHEAD--THOSE FOR CHAIRMAN.

JOHN FAIRBANK (GLOBE, JAN 11) CONTENDS THAT TO UNDERSTAND

NATIONAL PRC MOURNING FOR CHOU, ONE MUST THINK BACK TO FDR DEATH. REVIEWING CHOU'S CAREER, FINDS IT AMAZING, IN VIEW PIVOTAL ROLE HE PERFORMED WITHIN PRC, THAT HE WAS ALSO COUNTRY'S CHIEF REP ABROAD. MAINTAINS THAT AS CHOU NOW BECOMES MORE LEGANDARY FIGURE, WE CAN REGRET HE NEVER CAME TO US, 'THAT OUR OFFICIAL ATTITUDE PREVENTED IT, AND THAT HIS REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE CAN NO LONGER HELP US TO WORK OUT THE SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP"; PERHAPS CHOU CAN BECOME FOLK HERO OF MODERN AGE AMONG US, TOO.

WM HINTON (GLOBE, JAN 11) RECALLS CONTACTS WITH CHOU, REMEMBERS PREMIER'S "WIT, WARMTH." SAYS WITH HIS DEATH, CHINESE HAVE LOST GREAT, WISE LEADER, AND AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LOST "COMPASSIONATE FRIEND."

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND BELIEVES CHOU'S PASSING HAS SHED LIGHT ON PEKING'S "PUZZLING DECISION RECENTLY" RELEASING THREE SOVIET AIRMEN. CITES SOME DIPLOMATS WHO FEEL CHINESE WISHED: REDUCE TENSION IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BECAUSE OF UNEASY TRANSITION PERIOD THAT WOULD SEEM CERTAIN FOLLOW CHOU'S DEATH, DURING WHICH PRC COULD BE MORE VULNERABLE TO SOVIET MANEUVERS; REMOVE ISSUE SOVIETS COULD USE TO ATTACK PEKING DURING CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST NATIONS EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR; AND SERVE WARNING ON US NOT TAKE NEW-FOUND RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PRC FOR GRANTED, SINCE PRC ALWAYS CAPABLE IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SOVIET. SAYS SOME ASIAN DIPLMATS SEE THIRD CONSIDERATION AS MAJOR ELEMENT IN FREEING SOVIET AIRMEN.

RICHARD BURT, IN LONDON (CSM), FINDS ANSWER ELUSIVE

TO QUESTION WHETHER PRC, IN RESPONSE LOWER US MIL PROFILE
IN ASIA, HAS EMBARKED ON NEW NAVAL BUILDUP TO COUNTER
GROWING SOVIET SEA POWER. RELIABLE DETAILS OF PRC NAVAL
PROGRAMS DIFFICULT COME BY; BUT OVERALL IMPRESSION OF
OBSERVERS IS THAT PEKING LEADERSHIP HAS PUT INCREASED
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EMPHASIS ON NAVAL FORCES, ACQUIRING MODERN WELL-EQUIPPED
REGIONAL FORCE ABLE PERFORM OFFENSIVE MISSIONS IN ADDITION
TO LONG-STANDING ROLE OF COASTAL DEFENSE.

REED IRVINE, CHAIRMAN "ACCURACY IN MEDIA, INC," TAKES
EXCEPTION TO "OVEROPTIMISTIC FORECAST" OF HUGE SURGE IN
PRC FOOD PRODUCTION OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, BY NEVELLE
MAXWELL IN 12/26 NYT.

12. JAPAN

NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO CONCLUDES GROMYKO VISIT WAS
DIRECTED AT SLOWING DEVELOPMENT JAPAN'S RELATIONS
WITH PRC. NOTES GOJ SOURCES SAY GROMYKO WARNED MIKI
SOV COULD NOT BE INDIFFERENT IF JAPAN SIGNED PEACE PACT
WITH PRC THAT CONTAINED "ANTI-HEGEMONY" CLAUSE RUSSIANS
CONSIDER ANTAGONISTIC; IN REPLY, SAY MIKI INSISTED
OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY WORLD-WIDE PRINCIPLE. GOJ
OFFICIALS PROFESS THEY NOT SURE WHAT GROMYKO MEANT WHEN
SAID MOSCOW WOULD BE FORCED RECONSIDER" RELATIONS IF
JAPAN SIDES POLITICALLY WITH PRC, BUT DO NOT APPEAR WORRIED.

NOTES MIYAZAWA TOLD PRESS HE INFORMED GROMYKO JAPAN
"PEACEFUL NATION" DOESN'T WANT HEAR ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE'S
FEUD. MIYAZAWA ALSO SAID GROMYKO URGED JAPAN HELP FORM
ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM ADVOCATED BY BREZHNEV;
BUT MIKI REPLIED PLAN NOT AT ALL APPROPRIATE UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IN REPLY GROMYKO CRITICISM THAT
FORD PACIFIC DOCTRINE FAVORS PRC, FM SAID MIKI NOTED IT
CALLS FOR AMICABLE RELATIONS AMONG ALL NATIONS, REGARDLESS
OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND LABELLED IT IMPROVEMENT OVER
NIN DOCTRINE THAT CALLED ON US ALLIES IN ASIA DEFEND
SELVES AGAINST AGGRESSION.

FRANCIS (CSM) AT IMF MEETING IN JAMAICA NOTES US FAST
GETTING REPUTATION AMONG LDC'S FOR BEING STINGY. TO
SOME DEGREE, JAPAN, FRG SHARE US TOUGHNESS ON LIMITING
FOREIGN AID, BUT SIT BACK, LET US LEAD PLAY WITHOUT
SHOWING OWN POSITIONS.

LEAVITT MORRIS (CSM SPECIAL) REVIEWS NEW JAPAN TOURIST
BUREAU BROCHURE, "DAYBOOK, 75-76", THAT LISTS TRAVEL
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EXPERIENCES NOT FOUND IN STANDARD GUIDEBOOKS; INCLUDES MONEY-SAVING TIPS AIMED AT ATTRACTING YOUNG AMERICANS.

NYT'S CLIVE BARNES REVIEWS "PACIFIC OVERTURES" OPENING ON B'WAY; FINDS IT "VERY SERIOUS, ALMOST INORDINATELY AMBITIOUS MUSICAL, DESERVING AS SUCH OF EQUALLY SERIOUS ATTENTION." WSJ'S EDWIN WILSON FINDS SOME SECTIONS OF PRINCE-SONDHEIM-WEIDMAN MUSICAL "HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL, BOTH VISUALLY AND VOCALLY"; BUT RUES HINT OF E-W AMBIVALENCE IN USE OF EVOCATIVE "HAIKU" TO TELL WESTERN-STYLE JOKE.

13. INDOCHINA

SUN'S TREWHITT BELIEVES US TIES WITH HANOI MAY NOT BE FAR OFF. NOTES GESTURES MADE BY NVN, CONTINUED FEEL FOR EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA IN US. BELIEVES US OFFICIALS WANT SEE CERTAIN AREAS CLARIFIED BEFORE SERIOUS TALKS TOWARD US-VN RECONCILIATION: MANAGEMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TREATMENT FORMER SVN LEADERS, TTITUDES TOWARD REMAINING NON-COMMUNIST GOVTS IN AREA. SAYS SOME THINK NVN INTEREST DUE DESIRE AID, HELP EXPLOITING OFFSHORE OIL. POINTS OUT USG UNABLE HOLD OUT AGAINST VN CAMPAIGN, WITH APPROVAL GIVEN PRIVATE AID SHIPMENTS, BILL PENDING ON HILL TO OPEN TRADE.

14. GENERAL

WSJ DISCUSSES PROBLEMS UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS, BELIEVES INSTRUCTIVE LOOK AT HK, SINGAPORE TO SEE HOW OVERCROWDED, RESOURCE-POOR AREAS CAN THRIVE DUE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE. ADDS TAIWAN, SK HAVE BOTH FASHIONED STRONG ECONOMIES BY ENCOURAGING ENTERPRISE, INVESTMENT.

NEILAN (SAN DIEGO UNION 12/4) FINDS US FACTOR IN PACIFIC SHIFTING. REVIEWS TREATIES, TROOP COMMITMENTS. BELIEVES FORCE LEVELS IN JAPAN, SK LIKELY REMAIN STEADY. ELSEWHERE, NUMBER WILL GO DOWN: US VIRTUALLY COMMITTED UNDER SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE TO COMPLETE TAIWAN PULLOUT; IN PHILS, MARCOS TALKS ABOUT VACATING BASES, BUT SEEMS EASING URGENCY OF US WITHDRAWAL; THAILAND, UNDER NVN PRESSURE, HAS SET MARCH 20 DEADLINE FOR US LEAVE BASES.

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NOTES SOME POL PRESSURE IN JAPAN FOR US REDUCTION DUE FEAR INVOLVEMENT IN WAR NOT IN GOJ INTERESTS. SEES MAIN US DEFENSE LINE INCLUDING FORCES IN SK, WITH

BACKUP FORCES GUAM, MARIANAS, OTHER PAC ISLANDS.

15. KOREA

WSJ'S PEARLSTINE, AT "HILL 229," SK, WRITES OF GEN HOLLINGSWORTH, COMMANDER OF 183,000-MAN US-UK I CORPS GROUP, RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING CENTRAL PART OF DMZ AND 6.5 MILLION IN SEOUL AGAINST ANY NK ATTACK. GEN SAYS IF REDS ATTACK, "THEY HAVE TO BRING THEIR TANKS THROUGH HERE. AND WHEN THEY DO, I AM GOING TO MURDER THEM." PEARLSTINE NOTES "HOLLY" IS "ONE OF THOSE GENERALS WHO IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO MAYHEM," ACCORDING SENIOR SFRC STAFFER, AND HIS WORDS SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. RECOGNIZING VN ENDED US APPETITE FOR LONG ASIAN GROUND WARMS. HOLLINGSWORTH SAYS HE HAS PREPARED FOR "SHORT, VIOLENT WAR"; WOULD SEEK END IT WITHIN 9 DAYS, RELYING ON HEAVY ARTILLERY, MASSIVE AIR SUPPORT, INCLUDING B-52 BOMBERS NOW ON GUAM.

PEARLSTINE OBSERVES WHILE GEN CONVINCED HIS SHORT-WAR PLAN WOULD WORK, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HOLD SUCH SANGUINE PROMISES SUSPECT. CITES ONE US MIL OFFICIAL THAT THERE ISN'T ENOUGH ARTILLERY IN PLACE TO SUSTAIN VIOLENT CONFLICT "HOLLY" EVISIONS; AND JAPANESE DEFENSE ANALYSTS THINK WOULD BE AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE SK, US TROOPS, COULD END WAR WITH NK. COMMENTS THAT IF SO" PRESSURE MIGHT BUILD ON PRC AND SOVIET TO ENTER FRAY AND ON US TO

INCREASE TROOP COMMITMENTS; ULTIMATELY, US MIGHT ALSO FEEL COMPELLED USE NUKES. NOTES GEN'S IMAGE AS "HIP SHOOTER," EARNED IN VN FIGHTING, IS OVERDRAWN, ACCORDING HIS DEFENDERS, INCLUDING SOME TOP OFFICIALS AMEMBASSY SEOUL; THEY ASSERT HIS REPUTATION FOR VIOLENCE MAY NOW SERVE AS IMPORTANT DETERRENT TO NK AGGRESSION ALONG DMZ. EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO KNOWS HIM WELL SAYS DESPITE "WILD" IMAGE, "HOLLY" FOLLOWS ORDERS, EASIER TO WORK WITH THAN OTHER, LESS FLAMBOYANT US MIL BRASS IN SK. ONE US MIL OFFICIAL IN SK SAYS HOLLINGSWORTH IS ONLY GENERAL IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD WHO TELLS ENEMY EXACTLY WHAT HIS PLANS ARE, AND HAS PROBABLY KEPT NK FROM MISCALCULATING WHEN EVALUATING US DEFENSES.

PEARLSTINE NOTES GEN CREDITED WITH IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS, MORALE OF US, SK FORCES DURING TIME HE HAS HEADED I CORPS, JUNKING PREDECESSORS' DEFENSE STRATEGY OF RETREAT IN FACE OF ATTACK, AND REVAMPING TROOPS' TRAINING PROGRAMS. HIS PRESENCE HAS ENCOURAGED SK MIL LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM IMPRESSED THAT HE SPENDS SO MUCH TIME ALONG DMZ AND

I CORPS HQS. HE HAS ALSO TRIED DEVELOP RAPPORT WITH
SK FARMERS, VILLAGERS LIVING NEAR DMZ. "HOLLY" LAVISH
WITH PRAISE FOR SKOREANS, DOESN'T SHARE CONCERN OF
MANY AMERICANS ABOUT PRES PARK'S AUTHORITARIAN GOVT.
MANY US MIL OFFICIALS IN SK THINK HE COULD HANDLE
STILWELL'S JOB AS COMMANDING GENERAL ALL TROOPS
IN SK; BUT OTHERS, INCLUDING SOME DOD OFFICIALS, STILL
QUESTION WHETHER HE IS DIPLOMATIC ENOUGH FOR ASSIGNMENT.
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